As regards FM Studios, four new FM Radio stations at Kakinada (10 kW Tr. with studio), Karimnagar (5 kW Tr.), (Srikakulam (1 kW Tr.) and Nellore (10 kW Tr.) have been proposed in the State during the 10th Plan. In addition, 10 kW FM Tr. at Suryapet and Mehboobnagar have been proposed but are yet not approved. Also, a radio station with 3 kW FM Tr. and studio is technically ready at Macherla but awaiting staff sanction. However, implementation of the above schemes is subject to approval, funds availability and sanction of Operation & Maintenance staff by the competent authority.

Losses by Prasar Bharati

151. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati has been losing around 1,200 crore rupees annually;

(b) whether inspite of this fact the cash-starved Prasar Bharati propose to add new channels;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action plan of Government to revamp and streamline its working to control its unabated losses?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The role of Prasar Bharati is different from other private broadcaster and earning of commercial revenue is not primary objective but is only incidental to its activities. The earnings of Prasar Bharati are taken as a whole and are accounted for centrally. Prasar Bharati by the very nature of its mandate as public broadcaster, is to reach every nook and corner of the country irrespective of commercial viability. Various channels of Prasar Bharati are engaged in enrichment of diverse culture of India. These channels are operated with the budgetary support of the Government. A ten member Committee headed by Secretary, I&B has been constituted on 30th March, 2005 to suggest a viable capital and financial structure for Prasar Bharati to strengthen its functioning. The committee is yet to submit its final report.